

**Northwestern University**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Political Science 353:**  
**Latin American Politics**  
**Spring Quarter 2012**

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-1:50  
Place: Annenberg Hall, G15

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*“Latin America is ungovernable.” Simon Bolivar, on his deathbed in 1830.*

This is a course about the dynamics of political governance in Latin America. The objective is to help students develop an understanding of contemporary Latin American politics—some of its more important patterns over time, and how different countries are responding to challenges of development, political stability, and democratization.

No prior coursework on the region is assumed or required.

Course Requirements:

Formal course requirements include timely reading of assignments and regular attendance at lectures and discussion sections. They will also include a mid-term examination and a final take-home essay consisting of two 5-6 page responses to assigned questions.

The reading load will *average* 100-120 pages per week.

All students are expected to attend class regularly, and to come to class having done the readings. Attending class is important, because lectures will generally not review reading assignments, but will provide additional material and theoretical perspectives that will be important for your exam responses. Timely reading of the assignments is also important for understanding the lectures. I will assume you have done the readings, and will not re-state the background and basic information in them.

Attendance and participation in discussion sections is not only mandatory, it will also be vital to your good performance in this course. If you expect to miss a discussion section you are advised to notify your Teaching Assistant prior to the scheduled meeting time.

The approximate grade distributions for the course will be: mid-term, 35%, final exam, 45%, participation in discussion section, 20%.

The mid-term will be held during the class period of **April 25.**

The final essay exam will be due on **Monday, June 5, at 4 pm.** Details on the posting and submission of the exam will be provided during the quarter.

**Exceptions will be made for these exam dates and deadlines only for *documented* cases of illness or family crisis. Students seeking an exception must request it from the instructor prior to the exam or paper deadline.**

### **Course books and readings:**

The following books are available for purchase from Norris Bookstore:

Thomas Skidmore, Peter Smith, and James Green: *Modern Latin America*. Seventh Edition. Oxford University Press (2010).

All assigned readings other than the Skidmore and Smith will be posted on a “Blackboard CourseInfo” website set up specifically for this class.

### **Schedule of Classes and Readings:**

Introduction: Historical Patterns and Contemporary Trends in Latin American Politics (March 26 and 28) \*No sections this week\*

#### Required readings:

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*: Prologue, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Jorge Castañeda, “Latin America’s Left Turn,” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2006).
- Michael Shifter, “A Surge to the Center,” *Journal of Democracy* 22, No. 1, January 2011.

The Rise and Legacies of Populism in Latin America: Lessons from Argentina and Mexico (April 2, 4, and 9).

- a) Peronism in Argentina
- b) The Mexican Revolution
- c) The Authoritarian 'Wave' of the 1960's and 1970's in Latin America.

Required readings:

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*: Ch. 3 on Argentina, pp. 69-91; Ch. 8 on Mexico, pp. 254-287.
- Evelyn P. Stevens, "Mexico's PRI: The Institutionalization of Corporatism?" in J. Malloy, ed., *Authoritarianism and Corporatism in Latin America*, 1978.
- Edward L. Gibson, "The Populist Road to Market Reform: Policy and Electoral Coalitions in Mexico and Argentina," in *World Politics*, April 1997.
- Alma Guillermoprieto, "Little Eva," in Guillermoprieto, *Looking for History: Dispatches from Latin America* (Pantheon Books, 2001).
- David Collier, "Overview of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Model." In David Collier, Editor, *The New Authoritarianism in Latin America* (1979).
- Duncan Green, "State versus Market: The Rise and Fall of Import Substitution." In Kingstone, *Readings in Latin American Politics*, Ch. 3.1, pp. 68-83.

Chile—A Nation of "Models": Parliamentary Democracy and Authoritarianism; Socialism and Free Markets (April 1 and 16).

- a) Chilean democratic politics until the overthrow of Salvador Allende in 1973
- b) Transition to Democracy and the Post (?) Pinochet Era

Required readings:

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*: Chapter 4 on Chile.
- Arturo Valenzuela, *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile*. Intro, pp. 3-49; 77-80 (read entire selection on the website if you are interested—it's interesting stuff).
- Timothy J. Scully, "Chile: The Political Underpinnings of Economic Liberalization," in Dominguez and Lowenthal, eds., *Constructing Democratic Governance: South America in the 1990s*.
- John Lee Anderson, "The Dictator." Article in *The New Yorker* (1998).
- Juan Pablo Luna and Rodrigo Mardones, "Chile: Are the Parties Over?" *Journal of Democracy* 21, No. 3, July 2010.
- Patricio Navia, "Chile's Middle Class Flexes its Muscles," *Current History*, February 2012.

Argentina: The Political Economy of (Un)Governability (April 18 and 23)

Required Readings:

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*: Ch. 3 on Argentina, pp. 91-108.
- Peter Kingstone, Introduction to Chapter 6, pp. 210-213.
- Hector Schamis: "Argentina: Crisis and Democratic Consolidation," in Kingstone, *Readings in Latin American Politics*.
- Pamela Starr, "Argentina: Anatomy of a Crisis Foretold," in Kingstone, *Readings in Latin American Politics*.

- Steven Levitsky, "From Labor Politics to Machine Politics: The Transformation of Party-Union Linkages in Argentine Peronism, 1983-1999." *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 38, No. 3, October 2003.
- Javier Auyero, "The Logic of Clientelism in Argentina: An Ethnographic Account." *Latin American Research Review*, Vol 35, No. 3, 2000.
- Sebastián Etchemendy and Candelaria Garay, "Argentina: Left Populism in Comparative Perspective, 2003-2009," in Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts, Eds., *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

### **Mid-Term Exam, April 25**

Mexico: Democracy has Arrived. Now What? (April 30 and May 2).

#### Required Readings:

- Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*: Ch. 8 on Mexico, pp. 287-295
- Joseph L. Klesner, "The end of Mexico's one-party regime," *PS, Political Science & Politics* 34 (Mar. 2001).
- Peter Kingstone, Introduction to Chapter 11, pp. 490-494.
- Chris Gilbreth and Gerardo Otero, "Democratization in Mexico: The Zapatista Uprising," Chapter 11.2 in Kingstone, *Readings in Latin American Politics*.
- Tina Hilgers, "Causes and Consequences of Political Clientelism: Mexico's PRD in Comparative Perspective," *Latin American Politics and Society* 50, No 4, 2008, pp. 124-153.
- Francisco González, "Drug Violence Isn't Mexico's Only Problem," *Current History*, February 2011.
- Pamela Starr, "Mexico's Big, Inherited Challenges," *Current History*, February 2012.

Brazil: Leaving the Past Behind? (May 7, 9, and 14)

#### Required Readings:

- Skidmore and Smith, Chapter 5 on Brazil, esp. pp. 157-180.
- Wendy Hunter, "Brazil: The PT in Power," in Steven Levitsky and Kenneth Roberts, Eds., *The Resurgence of the Latin American Left*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.
- Riordan Roett, *The New Brazil*, Brookings Institution Press, 2010. Chapters 4-9. Electronic book, download from the NU library. Link is on blackboard.
- William Nylen, *Participatory Democracy versus Elitist Democracy: Lessons From Brazil*, Palgrave, 2003, Chapters 2, 3 (optional), 4, 5, and conclusion. Electronic book, download from the NU library. Link is on blackboard.
- Kenneth Maxwell, "Lula's Last Year," *Current History*, February 2010.

Venezuela: What's Revolutionary about Chavez's Bolivarian Revolution? (May 16, 21, and 23-- documentary film on Chavez on May 21)

Required Readings

- Skidmore, Smith, and Green, Chapter 8.
- Daniel Levine, "Venezuela Since 1958: The Consolidation of Democratic Politics," in Stepan and Linz, eds. *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Latin America*, pp. 82-109.
- Javier Corrales and Michael Penfold: *Dragon in the Tropics: The Political Economy of Revolution in Venezuela*, The Brookings Institution, 2011. Chapter 5 not required. Skim conclusion. Available as electronic book from the NU Library. Link is on blackboard.
- Alma Guillermoprieto, "Don't Cry for Me, Venezuela," *The New York Review of Books*, October 6, 2005
- Alma Guillermoprieto, "The Gambler," *The New York Review of Books*, October 20, 2005.
- The Economist* articles on Venezuela, TBA.
- Kirk Hawkins, "Who Mobilizes? Participatory Democracy in Chávez's Bolivarian Revolution," *Latin American Politics and Society* 52, No. 3, 2010.